



Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

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January 2001

4 Tennesseans Attend First National Family Support Conference

Some 234 family members, practitioners, and policy makers from around the country attended the first National Family Support Conference on November 10-11, 2000 in San Antonio, Texas.

Attending from the Division of

EARN to Provide Employment Opportunities

The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and the U.S. Department of Labor are developing a new nationwide program. The Employer Assistance Referral Network (EARN) is designed to link providers and employers, which will increase employment for people with disabilities.

Scheduled to go on-line with employers in the Spring of 2001, providers are being recruited to participate in this innovative program.

Providers participating in EARN will find:

- Increased job placement opportunities
- Increased exposure in the employer community
- Assistance from the EARN staff in employer/provider matching
- Access to EARN resources
- No cost to enroll or participate as a resource
- Simple one-page enrollment process

To enroll please visit the web site, write or call EARN at:

C/o Birch & Davis Associates, Inc.
5201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 600
Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone (888) 695-8289
Fax (703) 820-4820
www.EARNworks.com

Mental Retardation Services were Jan Coatney, Statewide Family Support Coordinator, and Susan Kurts-Acred, West Tennessee Family Support Coordinator.

The Developmental Disabilities Council awarded a grant to attend to Janet Fessler, Family Support State Council member and Katie Widmer, Family Support Director, from Team Evaluation Center in Chattanooga.

This program provides services to individuals with severe disabilities and their families, supports that emphasize community living and enable them to enjoy typical lifestyles.

This conference provided sessions that addressed various topics relating to Family Support including:

- Family Needs Across the Lifespan
- Empowering Families through Positive Helping
- Mining Community Assets to Support Families
- Developing Culturally Competent Family Support
- Meeting the Needs of Caregivers
- Tying Together Self Determination and Family Support
- Finding Financing for Family Support
- Organizing Families for Change
- Dealing with Waiting Lists, Olmstead, and Family Support

Family Support was created to address the disappearance of extended family supports, more women in the workforce, medical and technological advances, and the increasing complexity of state systems.

Almost every state operates some type of Family Support Program. Currently, 30 states have Family Support Legislation and Tennessee is proud to be one of those states.

For more information about Family Support in Tennessee, contact Jan Coatney at (615) 532-6530.

WEB POSTINGS

<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

Announcements, draft policies, final policies and information bulletins all appear on our Web site. Recent activities include:

INFORMATION BULLETINS

BULLETIN NUMBER	BULLETIN TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	EFFECTIVE DATE
00-25	Revision of Regional Monitoring System	John Kaufman	11/21/00
00-26	Signs and Symptoms of Shunt Malfunction	Ruth Givens	11/28/00
00-27	Community Building	Donna Allen	12/8/00
00-28	Procedure for Procuring Autopsies	Dwan Allen	12/15/00

DMRS Staff Announcements

Central Office

Donna Allen recently joined the staff as Director of Planning and Development. Ms. Allen's areas of expertise include the development of Waiver applications, Family Support, Program Development, Rate Study, Development of New Rates, Residential and Day Services and Support Coordination.

Brian Dion, Director of Residential Services, handles initial reviews of potential residential providers,



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A publication of the Division of Mental Retardation Services

Don Sundquist, Governor
Dr. C. Warren Neel, Commissioner
Finance and Administration
Barbara Brent, Deputy
Commissioner, DMR Services

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Authorization No. 339315, 10,000 copies, November 1999. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.08 per

residential provider recruitment, STRAP rental assistance coordination and coordinates utilization of existing residential supports and expansion of current agencies.

Richard Smith, Director of Staff Development, coordinates curriculum development, staff development and handles all training issues regarding the Settlement Agreement.

Please feel free to contact these individuals at (615) 532-6530 should you require assistance in any of these areas.

West Regional Office

Annette Hampton joined the staff in the West Regional Office on November 16th as Director of Nursing. She can be reached at (901) 685-3901 extension 133.

NIA Association Holds Auction/festival

The NIA Association in Clarksville recently hosted a community extravaganza.

Activities included a silent auction with door prizes and food.

The purpose was to give everyone a chance to see the two-year-old organization up close, to make the community aware of their services, to raise funds, and to give family members of those needing services an enrollment opportunity.

Information on their Day Program was provided along with a presentation of Residential Services.



Central and Regional Information Specialists

PERSON	LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER
Larry Grimes	Central Office-Nashville	(615)532-6545	(615)532-9940
Kay Carlton	Memphis Regional Office	(901)685-3901 Ext.134	(901)685-3919
Elizabeth Gerlock	Nashville Regional Office	(615)231-5033	(615)231-5150
Fred Coe	Knoxville Regional Office	(865)588-0508 Ext.108	(865)594-5180

Toll Free Lines

For Complaints or Information, Call

Central Office-Nashville	1-800-535-9725
Memphis Regional Office	1-800-308-2586
Nashville Regional Office	1-800-654-4839
Knoxville Regional Office	1-888-310-4613

Web Site

Commission on Compliance/
Division of Mental Retardation
Services Web Site:
<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

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Department of Finance and Administration
Division of Mental Retardation Services
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Nashville, TN 37243